

Staff News

17th June 2019

Year 8 STEM: Penangadoo STEM Project 20th May

The Penangadoo project started with year 8 students from PHS and Years 5, 6 and 7 students from Kalangadoo and Nangwarry Primary Schools combining in Kalangadoo for their first session together. The group worked with Chantelle Love from Notosh who stepped participants through the design thinking process to identify problems that students could work on as a part of STEM.

Students worked in small groups, firstly brainstorming problems which could be tackled and then identifying one problem to pitch to staff. Each group prepared and delivered a two minute pitch. Problems which were identified included how to support homeless teenagers in this area and how to provide more activities for teenagers.

The aim of this project is to develop confidence and resilience in students' learning, fostering their independence and creativity.

If you would like to be involved as an 'expert' who the students could interview, or you would like to be involved in providing feedback to their solutions aka 'prototypes' please get in contact with

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Junior Boys Football 21st May

Knock Out football was played in Naracoorte, with Sam Gartner accompanying the Year 8/9 boys as coach. Team numbers were boosted by seven Kangaroo Inn students. The boys were roundly defeated in their first game by a strong Naracoorte team, but held their own against Millicent to finish just one goal behind.

Stage 1 Outdoor Ed Camp 21st-24th May

The stage 1 Outdoor Ed camp was held in the Grampians and focussed on bush walking and rock climbing. The boys abseiled down Wonderland Ridge and attempted five rock climbing ascents of varying difficulty. The group also undertook the challenge of an independent 20km trek, joining teachers Jason Plunkett and Chloe Long at checkpoints and sending photo updates to ensure they were on track. A walk to the Pinnacle completed the activities.

Simultaneous Story Telling 22nd May

We had a great visit from students from the McKay Children's Centre for Simultaneous Story Time. Each student decorated two maracas and had lots of fun joining in with Jessie as she read the story 'Alpacas with Maracas'. Charlotte Neale demonstrated drum playing and John Bond demonstrated spinning alpaca wool which kept the children engrossed. Ali, Heather and Judith decorated the Seminar Room to its usual high standard which was appreciated by both the kindy children and the preschoolers who joined us for Kids' Time the following Friday.

Child Studies Excursion 23rd May

Stage 1 student, Alex Attenborough is a member of the 11/12 Child Studies class. Here is her report from the class excursion to Mt Gambier.

On the 23rd of May, the Year 11 and 12 Child Studies class went to Mount Gambier for a tour around the hospital and Uni SA campus. We had a talk from the nurse in charge of the graduate nurse program and head midwife on the day. We saw different wards and enjoyed seeing the maternity ward the most.

After seeing the hospital we then went to the Mount Gambier Uni SA campus. We got information about pathways the university offers and learnt more about midwifery and

nursing career pathways. Year 11 student Ebony said she “enjoyed the University tour and seeing the simulator people and babies in their practice hospital”.

Year 10 Careers Day 24th May

Year 10 students along with Kathleen Phillips and Mike Hentschke visited the Careers Expo in Mount Gambier. Students attended the Careers Forum at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre where they listened to a number of speakers talking about their careers and employers’ expectations of students. Speakers included the manager of Vespas, Ben Hood from Hello Friday, and Toni Varinis from Metro Bakery.

Afterwards students went to the Main Corner Complex to view exhibitions from a range of industries (SAPOL, Timberlink, Country Health) and higher education options (TAFE SA, Uni SA). They were also able to have resumes checked by MAS National, Business SA and MEGT and collect information about apprenticeships. Hands on sessions were provided by TAFE SA, and students were able to use VR headsets at the VESPAS site to go inside a wind turbine in Norway and a logging simulator.

Kids Time 24th May

The theme for this Kids’ Time gathering flowed on from Simultaneous Story Telling, with featured books, ‘Maracas for Alpacas’ and ‘The Cranky Bear’. After the welcome, Heather Stone read ‘Maracas for Alpacas’ and a You Tube video showing alpacas being shorn was watched. John Bond demonstrated spinning wool and ‘The Cranky Bear’ was read. For their craft activity, the littlies made their own maracas, shoe box guitars and formula tin bongo drums. Everyone joined in an action song, then it was time for a series of experiments about sound. After trying spinning for themselves, the children took to a prepared stage with the instruments they had made, with the adults backing them with maracas. Finally, the children decorated cup cakes with bear faces before enjoying them for morning tea.

Visitors to Kids Time invariably comment on the excellence of this program and mention how lucky our community is to have this excellent, multi-faceted early learning program.

Year 11 Work Experience 27th-31st May

Many of our Year 11 students took advantage of the opportunity to participate in Work Experience in Week 5. This gave students the chance to explore particular career options, be part of the wider community and focus their career ideas before Stage 2 course selections next term. The students returned with many positive stories about their experiences and with some glowing reports from their hosts. We are most appreciative of all those who provided placements for these students.

Financial Presentations 28th May

A financial literacy presenter visited, and involved students from across the school in presentations designed to foster their financial literacy. Excellent, age-appropriate advice was provided to students in each year level.

Adelaide Touch Football 29th-31st May

Miss Long, Mr Hentschke and 23 Year 8-12 boys headed to Adelaide for the School Sport SA Touch Football State Finals. The competition was spread over 2 days with Year 8/9 boys competing first. Coached by James Foggo and Sam Gartner, the boys took to the field in the first game fired up and ready to go. They quickly discovered that the day would be challenging. Aaron Zerk and Jake Klemm worked together to get the first try of the day, and from there our success built. Flynn Kain and Bailey Lindner were the next to score. In the last game our boys earned their first win, working as a team to ‘attack’ the line and stop scores against them. They finished 8th overall.

Friday was the Open Boys time to shine. Wanting to build on their success from last year, the boys had a goal to finish 4th or higher. James Foggo was captain for the day, winning the first toss and starting with the ball in the ‘guts’. From this Jacob Robbie, Joel Viteran and Tom Skeer worked together to get the first score of the day. The open boys’ lost this game by 2 tries. Jack Kain came firing, scoring our first try in the second game, setting the team up for a win. From here the boys

continued their winning streak, finishing 2nd in our pool and making it into the semi finals. Despite a great effort in the first semi-final, the boys went down to a strong Murrayville team, and ended up 4th in the competition.

Morning Breakfasts Week 5

As of the start of week 5, the breakfast station has again been available for students to grab a bite or top up before the start of the day. Toast, apples and bananas have been donated by local businesses whose generosity is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to Kate Skeer for her initiative in re-establishing this valuable program.

Café 43

After a 'soft' opening for staff in week 5, Café 43 is up and running for lunch each Wednesday for the remainder of the term – an opportunity not to be missed. Come and support our girls and Ms Jaeschke and enjoy an excellent meal. One warning though, on Wednesday 19th June, only cake and coffee will be available due to student absence.

Cows Create Careers 4th June

From Mike Hentschke

The Year 9/10 Ag class is again participating in the Cows Create Careers Project. Students are feeding and caring for two Ayrshire heifers on a rostered basis as part of the program. They are also conducting research into a range of topics including calf management and the breeding cycle of a heifer. A Year 10 group is investigating the feed budget for a herd using a farm management tool from Dairy Australia.

Mikaela Baker from Total Results Ag Consulting spoke to the class as our industry contact for the project. She spoke of her role in the dairy industry including providing advice to farms about the feeding program for the herd. She also highlighted the impact of current grain and hay prices on farm costs.

Importantly, she also mentioned the range of vocations for people who undertake tertiary training in Agricultural courses.

Head Space Visit 4th June

Paul from Headspace visited our school to deliver a series of workshops based on Mental Health and Well-being. For Year 8/9 students, Paul focused on Mental Health Literacy, understanding your own mental health and how to improve your mental fitness. Students also focused on bullying and the impact this has on mental health. The Year 10/12 students participated in a workshop on mental health literacy and also looked at how they could support their friends if and when times get tough.

Headspace is a youth mental health organisation which offers support and services to young people aged 12 – 25. There is an outreach Headspace program which visits Penola High School. If you think there is someone who might benefit from talking through any issues or accessing this service, please contact Wellbeing Coordinator, Jessie Cope, (87370000) to discuss a referral.

STEMIE 4th June

Four Year 10 students, Charlotte Neale, Stella Glynn, Ella Hutchesson and Tom Skeer, accompanied by Jason Plunkett, spent a day at UniSA Mt Gambier to learn about this year's STEMIE (STEM Innovative Experience) challenge. This year's theme is 'Movie Magic'. There are four major parts to the project: Understanding Special Effects (Science), promoting the movie (Technology), building a camera dolly (Engineering) and developing a dynamic spreadsheet budget (Maths). As well, students will produce a three minute video. Students spent the visit highly engaged in creating circuits using input and output devices and learning about spreadsheets and 3D modelling.

The project will run throughout term 3, with all Year 10 students involved.

AMT Mathematics Challenge

Four Year 9 students are currently competing in the Australian Mathematics Trust Enrichment Challenge. Held over four weeks, the Challenge involves students working collaboratively in pairs to solve six complex problems. Problems involve investigating number patterns, creating pathways through networks, and solving geometric challenges involving area and congruency. A challenging step up from the normal curriculum, the Challenge provides the opportunity for students to develop strategies to solve problems in unfamiliar contexts – a highly valued skill.

Year 10 White Card Training

Year 10 boys joined workers from industry or those seeking employment in industry to undertake White Card training in Mt Gambier. All the boys completed the training successfully, and appreciated the opportunity to try on safety harnesses.

Twilight Tour 5th June

The annual Twilight Tour, designed to showcase our school to prospective students, their families and members of the wider community was a great success, with a significant number of both participants and visitors. After a welcome in the foyer, with incidental music provided by Phoebe Tregenza, and an introductory presentation in the seminar room, SRC Co-Presidents, Brooke Hutchesson and Jesse Martin, conducted a tour of the school. Many students came back to school for the evening to demonstrate aspects of their learning. The evening culminated in an information session.

Uni SA Visit 6th June

A representative from UniSA visited to provide information about courses and university life to senior students.

Year 8 Robotics 8th June

From Jason Plunkett

The school has committed to be involved in the First Tech Challenge, competing against other schools in South Australia. This is similar to the engineering aspect of the STEMIE project, but with just an engineering focus. This is the high school equivalent of Lego League.

The challenge is run by the Student Robotics Club of South Australia. Last year they offered Grants to schools around Murray Bridge to participate, providing a \$3,000 robot for \$50. The Grant is provided by Google for Education. We have committed to spending \$300 for the challenge this year.

9/10 Art Photography Excursion 13th June

Photography students travelled to Majella Winery to take photographs as part of an assignment they have been working on using different perspectives, angles and techniques. These photos will also be submitted to the Penola Show Photography Competition later in the year. Although it was raining, the students enjoyed themselves and took some amazing shots. Stella from Majella took the students through the winery, showing almost every stage of the winemaking taking place.

Youth Operations

Eighteen students from Years 9 and 10 continue to be involved and highly engaged in the Youth Operations program which has been running on each Thursday throughout term 2. Students are looking forward to their graduations from the program on Thursday 27th June.